

Attachment 4: Initial Environmental Examination

PROGRAM/ACTIVITY DATA:Country/Region: SyriaProgram/Activity Title: Supporting Livelihoods in Syria (SLS)Project/Activity Implementation: Through April 2020Funding Year Begins: February 2017 Funding Year Ends: April 2020LOP Amount: Not to exceed \$20 millionPrepared By: Andrew Boegel, Middle East Bureau Team Lead, STARTCurrent Date: December 21, 2016Expiration Date: April 28, 2020Amendment (Y/N): N If "yes", Filename & date of original IEE/RCE _____**ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION RECOMMENDED:** (Place X where applicable)Categorical Exclusion: XNegative Determination: X

Positive Determination: _____

Deferral: _____

ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS: (Place X where applicable)CONDITIONS X**1 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDED THRESHOLD DECISION****Categorical Exclusion:**

A Categorical Exclusion pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2(c) (2), is recommended for:

1. all education, technical assistance, and training programs except to the extent such programs include activities directly affecting the environment 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(i),
2. all controlled experimentation exclusively for the purpose of research and field evaluation which are confined to small areas and carefully monitored 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(ii).

Negative Determination with Conditions, pursuant to 22 CFR 216.3(a)(3) is recommended for the following activities not specifically included under the above identified "Categorical Exclusions":

- Provision of the following inputs and extension services: Treated seeds,

pesticides, fertilizer, training on use of fertilizer and pesticides, livestock vaccinations and their disposal, and waste created through post-harvest handling.

- An Environmental Management and Mitigation Plan (EMMP—see attachment) is required for improved farming methods for identified crops, including information on adherence to soil and water management best practices.

- Mitigation measures include a Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safe Use Action Plan (PERSUAP) for pesticide use (where pesticides cover all insecticides, fungicides, and rodenticides, etc. covered under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)) which will establish a set of pesticides for which support is authorized by the Syria Transition Assistance Response Team, and establishes requirements attendant to support of these pesticides, such that said pesticide use/support: (1) embodies the principles of safe pesticide use and, (2) per USAID policy, is within an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) framework. This applies to the handling, transport, fuel for transport, storage, mixing, loading, application, clean-up of spray equipment, and/or disposal of pesticides.

- The procurement or use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) will require preparation of a biosafety assessment in accordance with ADS 201.3.11.2(b) in an amendment to the IEE reviewed by the Agency Biosafety Review Advisor and approved by the Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO).

- Irrigation and more efficient land use

- Mitigation measures include: proper siding and materials are used; An EMMP will be prepared and submitted to the AOR for any repair and/or rehabilitation activities prior to commencing works.

- Construction

- Mitigation measures include: an EMMP will be reviewed and approved by the AOR and MEO for any repair and/or rehabilitation activities prior to commencing works. If confirmed, a scoping statement and environmental assessment will be done the implementer prior to the start of activities. Terms of Reference for the scoping statement must be reviewed by the MEO and approved by the BEO. The implementer(s) will ensure that equipment is used in an environmentally sound and safe manner and properly disposed of at the end of its useful life.

- Priority irrigation and construction activities will be reviewed for any environment impacts and reported to the AOR for review and clearance.

2 BACKGROUND:

The overall objective for activities under SLS is to improve household food security and community resiliency. The sub-objectives to be achieved by each multi-sectoral intervention are listed below:

1) Strengthen market access and functionality: strengthen access to markets and market systems, particularly with regard to farm-to-market linkages and systems of private service providers

2) Strengthen Agricultural and Livestock Production: increase incomes of targeted households and businesses; increase production/yield of crops; improve seed quality, access and availability; improve breeding livestock quality health, quality, access and availability; increase extension services and/or capacity building opportunities; strengthen the ability of targeted households and communities to navigate shocks (e.g. drought) to their food security.

3) Strengthen Livelihood Opportunities and Value Chains Critical to Food Security: promote increased private sector development and positive economic interdependencies; replace or rehabilitate livelihood assets and inputs; promote diversification of productive assets and practices; improve agriculture related dietary diversity, and build capacity along the agribusiness value chain.

4) Improve Water Management, Irrigation and Land Use Techniques: address the complex water issues exacerbated by the humanitarian emergency in conflict areas, in collaboration with local governance institutions where feasible.

5) Learning and Data Collection: conduct and disseminate market, post-harvest, seed system, value chain, and/or livelihoods assessment(s) and action research in order to inform current and future programming.

By restoring assets, livelihoods, market systems, and related infrastructure and improving water and irrigation networks, the program and its partners will phase heavily conflict-affected communities out of reliance on humanitarian assistance and toward economic and productive self-determination. Further, through integration of conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding approaches or mechanisms in livelihoods and related infrastructure and water activities, these activities can also serve to bring communities together around common needs, reinforce economic interdependencies, and provide incentives for peaceful coexistence within and between heavily conflict-affected communities. An emphasis on a systems-based approach will enhance the sustainability of interventions by increasing the ability of systems to maintain the services beyond the lifespan of this program. Similarly, development of strategies to help beneficiaries and communities increase absorptive, adaptive and transformative capacities and prepare for and mitigate effects of recurrent shocks will reduce chronic vulnerability, thereby enabling a more resilient recovery.

3 REVISIONS:

As with all USAID-funded projects, and pursuant to 22 CFR 216.3(a)(9), if new information becomes available which indicates that any of the proposed actions to be funded by this activity might be “major” and their effects “significant,” the threshold decision for the actions listed above will be reviewed and revised by the originator(s) of the program and projects and submitted through the Regional Environmental Officer (REO) to the Bureau Environmental Officers (BEO) for the Middle East for approval and, if warranted, an environmental assessment will be prepared by Syria Transition Assistance as appropriate. It is the responsibility of the

COR to keep the Mission Environmental Officer and the BEO informed of any new information or changes in the activity that might require revision of the IEE.

EMMP Template

Environmental Issue	Potential Impact	Proposed Mitigation Measure	Monitoring Indicators	Monitoring and Reporting Frequency	Responsible Entity	

APPROVAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION RECOMMENDED for the Syria Essential Services II activity:

(Type name under signature line)

CLEARANCE:

Senior Democracy Officer, Syria Transition Assistance Response Team:

Kimberlee Bell Date: 1/4/2017
Kimberlee Bell

CONCURRENCE:

Bureau Environmental Officer

John Wilson Date: 11/10/17
John Wilson

ADDITIONAL CLEARANCES:

Regional Environmental Advisor

Alexandra Hadzi-Vidanovic Date: 11/10/2016
Approved by email
Alexandra Hadzi-Vidanovic

Regional Program Officer

Approved by email

Date: 9/30/2016

Chris Saenger

Regional Legal Advisor

Approved by email

Date: 11/10/2016

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